

Message Text

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67

ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 MED-03 CU-04 SCI-06 SS-14 NSC-10

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R 301915 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1514

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PASS USPHS FOR DR. EHRLICH, JR.

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, AR- US

SUBJECT: MEDICAL EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS

1. SCICOUN CALLED ON DR. ANTONIO GONZALEZ, UNDERSECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, AT HIS REQUEST TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS DEVELOPED DURING SURGEON GENERAL'S VISIT OCTOBER 1972. GONZALEZ FEELS STRONGLY THAT SOME START SHOULD BE MADE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED UPON ARRANGEMENTS DURING REMAINING TERM OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, UNDER WHICH THEY WERE DEVELOPED.
2. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO PLANNED VISIT OF MISS ABDELLAH, LAST WORD ON WHICH WAS THAT VISIT WOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER DETAILS WORKED OUT BETWEEN DR. EHRLICH AND DR. GONZALEZ. GONZALEZ HOPES THIS VISIT CAN TAKE PLACE SOON AND REQUESTED SCICOUN TO EXPLORE STEPS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH DATE AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT.
3. SCICOUN POINTED OUT TO GONZALEZ THAT USPHS HAS DESIGNATED EXCHANGE COORDINATORS AS CALLED FOR BY EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENT, AND IS STILL AWAITING SIMILAR DESIGNATION ON PART OF ARGENTINE DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH. GONZALEZ ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS SO AND STATED DELAY IN DESIGNATION DUE TO CAREFUL STUDY ON THEIR PART TO INSURE EXCHANGE COORDINATORS ARE THE RIGHT PEOPLE WHO CAN KEEP COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MOVING. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, WE DOUBT THAT EXCHANGE COORDINATORS WILL BE DESIGNATED DURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REMAINING TERM OF CURRENT ADMINISTRATION.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE IS MERIT TO GONZALEZ' S BELIEF THAT SOME IMPLEMENTATION OF ARRANGEMENT SHOULD TAKE PLACE UNDER CURRENT GOVERNMENT AND BELIEVES THAT VISIT OF MISS ABDELLAH IS APPROPRIATE ACTIVITY TO MEET THIS DESIRE. GONZALEZ NOTED THAT HIS DEPARTMENT IS GEARED UP TO UNDERTAKE ORDERLY TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO OFFICIALS OF NEW ADMINISTRATION, AND IS ONLY WAITING FOR THEIR DESIGNATION IN ORDER TO BEGIN THIS TRANSFER PROCESS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT DELAY OF TECHNICAL VISIT SUCH AS THAT OF MISS ABDELLAH UNTIL NEW ADMINISTRATION TAKES OFFICE WOULD IMPROVE OUR STATUS IN THIS FIELD WITH NEW GOVERNMENT. ON THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE THAT ABSENCE OF ANY IMPLEMENTATION OF ARRANGEMENTS IS MORE LIKELY TO ATTRACT UNFAVORABLE ATTENTION AND MAKE INITIATION MORE DIFFICULT. WE ALSO DO NOT CONSIDER NON- DESIGNATION OF ARGENTINE EXCHANGE COORDINATORS AS SUFFICIENT REASON TO WITHHOLD ALL ACTIVITY UNDER EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENT, SINCE CHANNEL EXISTS FOR ARRANGING SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES SUCH AS ABDELLAH VISIT.

5. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT US COORDINATOR, DR. EHRLICH, COMMUNICATE WITH DR. GONZALEZ PROPOSING NEW DATE FOR ABDELLAH VISIT SOMETIME PRIOR TO MAY 25. EMBASSY WILL BE GLAD TO COMMUNICATE TEXT OF LETTER, WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED BY CABLE, SINCE TIME IS BECOMING SHORT.
LODGE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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